



Six Pre-Reading Skills your child can start learning from birth!

1. Print Motivation

*Visit the library often. Let your child pick out their own books.

*Ask your librarian to suggest favorites.

*Make book time a special time, just for you and your little one.

*Let your child see you reading.

*Stop for a while if your child loses interest or gets upset. Reading should always be enjoyable.

Children who enjoy books will want to learn how to read!

2. Vocabulary

*Talk with your child about what is going on around you. Talk about how things work, feelings and ideas.

*Read together every day. When you talk about the story, your child learns even more words.

*Learn together by reading informational books on subjects that your child likes.

Children with bigger vocabularies are better readers!

3. Print Awareness

*Let your child hold the book and tell the story.

*Hold the book upside down. See if your child turns the book around.

*Point to words as you read them aloud, especially words that are repeated.

*Read aloud as often as possible—it doesn't matter what it is, it's the reading that is the important part.

Children who are comfortable with print are better readers!

4. Narrative Skills

*Listen carefully when your child talks.

*Ask your child to tell you about something that happened. Let them tell you about a picture they drew.

*Read together. Stories help children understand sequences.

*Ask open-ended questions like, "What do you think is happening in this picture?"

Being able to tell and retell a story helps children to understand what they read.

5. Letter Knowledge

*Point out and name letters in alphabet books.

*Show your child that the same letter can look different. Talk with your child about what is the same and what is different.

*Practice writing your child's name.

*Write words that interest your child like "truck" or "dinosaur" using magnetic letters, crayons or pencil and paper.

Knowing the names and sounds of letters helps children figure out how to sound out words.

6. Phonological Awareness

*Ask whether two words rhyme.

*Play word games by taking apart words: "What would we have if we took the hot out of hotdog?" or "What do we have if we take the "sss" away from sat?"

*Sing songs. In songs, each syllable usually gets its own note.

Being able to hear the sounds that make up words helps children when they are learning to read.





Reading Techniques

Dialogic Reading

How you read to children makes a difference in how ready they are to learn to read. This method is one way of reading with your children. It should not be used with every book (i.e. rhyming books or alphabet books).

1. Choose a book that your child already knows well.
2. Ask questions: "What's this?"
"What's going on here?"
Tell me what you see on this page."
3. Follow your child's answers with another question:
"What else do you see?"
"What is happening over here?"
4. Repeat what your child says and expand on it with another piece of information.
5. Help your child as needed.
Praise and encourage your child.
6. Follow your child's interests.

Dialogic reading encourages your four- and-five-year-old to think and talk by answering open-ended questions.

How to get the most out of your library:

- * Get a free library card.
- * Visit your library often with your children.
- * Get to know your children's librarian—a great resource!
- * Ask where to find alphabet books, fingerplays, nursery rhymes and other great stuff.
- * Check out armloads of materials to use at home.
- * Attend free storytimes and other library programs.

UTAH KIDS READY TO READ ADAPTED FROM EVERY
CHILD READY TO READ @YOUR LIBRARY
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
AND
THE ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICE
TO CHILDREN
DIVISIONS OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

http://library.utah.gov/utah_kids/index.htm



Pre-Readers Ages 4-5

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.

Why parents are so important in helping their children get ready to read:

- *You know your child best.
- *Children learn when they are in a good mood.
- *Children learn best by doing things and they love doing things with you. Take every chance you have to read with your child, tell and talk about stories, say nursery rhymes and sing songs.

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

Emilie Buchwald

Ask your librarian for the names of appropriate books and library programs that you and your child can enjoy together.

